

# Environmental REGISTRATION

## *Moving to Environmental Compliance Approvals*

The Ministry of the Environment is transforming its environmental approvals program. It has worked closely with business, industry and other stakeholders to develop a registration process for standard and routine-type activities and sectors, specifically, heating systems, standby power systems and automotive refinishing. On **October 31, 2011**, businesses will be able to register these activities in the **Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR)**.

Activities that are not subject to the registration process may instead be required to obtain an **Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA)**.

### What happens if I've applied for an environmental approval before October 31, 2011 and I haven't received it yet?

An application submitted before October 31, 2011 is valid and will be considered for approval.

If approved **before** October 31, 2011, you will receive a Certificate of Approval (CofA). If approved **after** October 31, you will receive an Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA).

**Note:** If, as of October 31, 2011, you have an existing CofA, it will continue to apply and will be treated as an ECA after that date without any immediate action on your part.

### What happens to my application if it includes activities that I think are now eligible for the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR)?

One of the following may occur if your application includes, in whole or part, an EASR-eligible activity:

- if a decision to approve the activity is made **prior**

to October 31, 2011, then you will be issued a Certificate of Approval (CofA).

- if a decision is **not made prior** to October 31, 2011, then the portion of your application dealing with the EASR-eligible activity will be discontinued — and one of the following applies:
  - you register the eligible activity in the EASR
  - a section 20.18 order under the Environmental Protection Act may be issued by the Ministry, allowing you to apply for the ECA for the EASR-eligible activity instead of registering.

**Note:** Refer to Fact Sheet Section 20.18 Orders, PIBS 8558e for more information.

### What happens if I already have an approval that covers an EASR-eligible activity?

If your existing approval includes an activity eligible for the registry, the approval will still be valid and you will not immediately need to register the activity.

You will need to register an eligible activity in the following circumstances, unless a section 20.18 order has been issued:

- when you make a change to the activity that would have otherwise required an amendment to the approval, or
- by the date required in the regulation stating when the approval for an activity expires (For heating systems, standby power systems and automotive refinishing, this date is October 31, 2016 — five years from the date the regulation comes into force).

Once you register your activities, your existing approval will only apply to activities that you did not register.

### **What happens if I submit an application for an approval after October 31, 2011?**

An application that is received after October 31, 2011 must meet Ontario Regulation 255/11 (O. Reg. 255/11) minimum requirements. If it does not, then the ministry may return the application.

Some of the requirements are:

- completing a director-approved application form
- submitting prescribed supporting documentation
- submitting applicable financial assurance estimates
- attesting to the accuracy and completeness of the application

### **If my application is returned for not meeting minimum requirements, can I appeal the decision?**

No. If an application is returned because it does not meet the minimum application requirements, the decision cannot be appealed. You can resubmit the application once it meets the minimum requirements of the regulation.

Minimum requirements improve the quality of applications, which in turn improve service turnaround.

### **What is new about the Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) application form?**

The improved electronic form provides:

- quick navigation between sections of the form
- ability to handle multiple media and project types
- automatic fee calculation
- help text to guide the user
- automatic validation of information entered into fields to minimize errors

### **Where can I get the new Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) form?**

You can obtain the new ECA form online at:  
**[www.serviceontario.ca](http://www.serviceontario.ca)**

### **Where can I get more information?**

Visit: **[www.ontario.ca/environmentalapprovals](http://www.ontario.ca/environmentalapprovals)**

Call: **1-800-461-6290** or 416-314-8001

*Disclaimer: If any differences exist between this document and the legislation and regulation then the legislation and regulation prevail.*